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**BUFFALO SOLDIER –**

**BOB MARLEY’S TRIBUTE**

Read over the lyrics to Bob Marley’s well known single, “Buffalo Soldier.” Then, answer the questions that follow:

# Buffalo Soldier

Buffalo soldier, dreadlock rasta:  
There was a buffalo soldier in the heart of America,  
Stolen from Africa, brought to America,  
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival.  
  
I mean it, when I analyze the stench -  
To me it makes a lot of sense:  
How the dreadlock rasta was the buffalo soldier,  
And he was taken from Africa, brought to America,  
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival.  
  
Said he was a buffalo soldier, dreadlock rasta -  
Buffalo soldier in the heart of America.  
  
If you know your history,  
Then you would know where you’re coming from,  
Then you wouldn’t have to ask me,  
Who the heck do I think I am?  
  
Im just a buffalo soldier in the heart of America,  
Stolen from Africa, brought to America,  
Said he was fighting on arrival, fighting for survival;

Said he was a buffalo soldier win the war for America.

Dreadie, woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,  
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!  
Woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,  
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!

Buffalo soldier troddin through the land, wo-ho-ooh!  
Said he wanna ran, then you wanna hand,  
Troddin through the land, yea-hea, yea-ea.  
  
Said he was a buffalo soldier win the war for America;  
Buffalo soldier, dreadlock rasta,  
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival;  
Driven from the mainland to the heart of the Caribbean.  
  
Singing, woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,  
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!  
Woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,  
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!  
  
Troddin through San Juan in the arms of America;  
Trodin’ through Jamaica, a buffalo soldier  
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival:  
Buffalo soldier, dreadlock rasta.

1. Consider the stanza below. What part of history is Marley referring to in these lines?

**Stolen from Africa, brought to America,  
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival**.

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2. The line “when I analyze the stench” implies that the history of the Buffalo Soldier fighting for United States Army has a negative side to it. What is the negative side to the story of the Buffalo Soldier?

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If you know your history,  
Then you would know where you’re coming from,  
Then you wouldnt have to ask me,  
Who the heck do I think I am?

3. What does the stanza above suggest about one of the benefits of studying history? Besides knowledge, what do we gain from studying history?

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Troddin through San Juan in the arms of America.

**Im just a buffalo soldier in the heart of America,  
Stolen from Africa, brought to America,  
Said he was fighting on arrival, fighting for survival;**

**Said he was a buffalo soldier win the war for America**.

4. Marley’s song refers to Buffalo Soldiers fighting and winning “the war for America” in two distinct places. Where were they fighting, and why? [**HINT**: They were fighting in two distinct times and places – his references are clear enough to figure out which!]

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